(b) As on 31-7-1994, 4,762 Panchayat Villages have been provided with public telephone facility in the State of Orissa.

(c) The performance of some of the older generation of Multi-Access Rural Radio Systems working in Orissa has not fully satisfactory.

(d) The following steps have been taken :—

(i) The older generation radio systems are getting progressively replaced by those of latest technology.

(ii) Necessary infrastructural facilities e.g. Vehicles, Staff spares and testing instruments are being provided regularly.

(iii) Proper control and monitoring of performance of equipments are being done.

(iv) More reliable media e.g. Radio equipment of latest technology is being inducted in the rural network.

Installation of internal cables by subscribers

1917. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has taken a decision that the new telephone subscribers will have to install the internal telephone cables, instruments etc. by themselves;

(b) if so, by when the decision will be effective; and

(c) what detailed provision Government have made in case of faults occurred either on the Department of Telecommunications or the subscribers side?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Sir, the entire matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Installation of Telephone connections in Calcutta under OYT Scheme

1918. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Calcutta Telephones, Calcutta has not yet got installed telephone connecions under OYT scheme to those who applied within 31st March, 1994 despite the areas having been declared open by the authorities for such connections;

(b) the details and number of applicants under the OYT scheme awaiting installation of telephones who applied and deposited their money till 31st March, 1994 to the areas under the jurisdiction of General Manager, North and South of Calcutta Telephones;

(c) whether the applications from some NRIs for such OYT connections have not been properly processed;

(d) whether Government would take immediate steps to ensure proper service to Non-resident Indians seeking such connction along with other applicants; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of cases registered under OYT category upto 31st March, 1994 in the areas under the jurisdiction of General Manager, north and south, Calcutta Telephones and awaiting installation of telephones as on 30-6-1994 is as under;

South Area — 336

North Area — 135

(c) No such case has been noticed.

(d) and (e) There is a provision for registration under OYT-Spl category for non resident Indians and foreign Nationals of Indian origin repatriating to India if they surrender foreign exchange equivalent to 2000 American Dollars to the Government of India through the authorised banks. OYT-spl category gets priority in the matter of installtion over OYT general category.

Security aspect of the Telecom Policy

1919. SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fully examined the security aspect of the Telecom Policy, if so, what provisions have been made to safeguard the defence security system; and

(b) whether Government have also finalised its stand on special duty concessions on import of finished equipment by foreign participants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) The need for providing adequate safeguard concerning security aspect will be kept in view while finalising and implementing the various provisions of the New Telecom Policy.

(b) No such decision has been taken, nor is there any such proposal under consideration at present.

Delay in the Launching of First Private Satellite communication service

1920. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the launching of country's first private satellite communications service has been seld up to differences over the inter-connectivity with the existing data network and licence fee between the Telecommunications Department and the prospective operaters.

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard;

(c) what are the names of the prospective VSAT operators and whether they have asked DOT to provide inter-connectivity with the existing network in the form of I-net, if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) what is DOT's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) No Sir. The Department has already issued letters of intent to seven companies for 64 KBPS Data Service via Satellite and three Companies have already submitted the required first year licence fee. One company has signed the licence agreement and another two companies will be signing the same shortly. The licence fee, for the first two years, has been reduced from Rs. 15 crores to Rs. 1 crore per year and the inter-connectivity with existing DOT Network (I-NET) is allowed. It is expected that country's first private satellite communication service will be launched in due time i.e. within 12 months from the date of signing of the agreement.

(c) and (d) The names of the prospective VSAT operators with current status on their proposals are given in the Statement (See below) enclosed herewith. (see below) Some of the operators had requested to DOT to provide inter-connectivity with its existing Data network i.e. I-NET, which has, since been accepted by the Department.